



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest 21 at Tractor Pulls

TAMPICO, Ind. (June 22) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested 21 people on 26 charges during a tractor-and-truck pull in Jackson County this weekend.

The annual tractor-and-truck pull and fish fry is a fundraiser for the Grassy Fork Volunteer Fire Department, which is located south of Brownstown on State Road 39.

Excise officers arrested 14 minors for illegal consumption or possession of alcohol, four of whom were less than 18 years of age. A 14-year-old boy was cited and released to his parents after being caught drinking beer and in possession of chewing tobacco. Another juvenile, age 16, was taken to the juvenile detention center on charges of possession of alcohol and public intoxication after he tested .15% BrAC.

Brian Rippy, 30, of Fredericksburg, was jailed on two warrants – one from Crawford County and one in Floyd County – after he was caught smoking what appeared to be synthetic marijuana or a lookalike substance. He was also issued a ticket on that charge.

Two people were charged with providing alcohol to a minor, one minor was cited for possession of false ID and four juveniles were issued tickets for possession of tobacco. In addition to Mr. Rippy, one other person was charged with possession of synthetic marijuana or a lookalike substance.

Deputies with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office assisted excise officers this weekend.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.